

From: Greg Watson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 4:54pm
Subject: One computer professional's opinion -- they are too powerful

I've been casually following this case since it started and in the process have almost completely changed my opinion of Microsoft and what the government should do about their monopoly. I've been a long-time user of Microsoft products at home and at work (I'm an Information Technology specialist for a medium sized software company).

I generally find their software pretty good and my first reaction to the anti-trust case was to wonder why people picked on Microsoft so much. I figured that the other companies were sore losers that just couldn't compete. After reading countless articles about their dirty tactics and having experiencing one too many incidents in which Microsoft's strong-arming has affected me and my ability to do my job, at this point I almost feel like no punishment would be too strong. A couple steps that seem entirely justified:

- 1) Split them up. Make Windows separate from Office and from developer tools.
- 2) Force them hand over office file formats to a standards body and severly fine them if they try to "embrace and extend" these standards as they have in the past.
- 3) Force them to stop developing web browsers.

Just do something that will hurt them, force greater competition and allow more standards to be created and followed in the technology field. I strongly feel that Microsoft is just too powerful and if something isn't done, they will hurt far more than help the company I work for and other businesses in the U.S. Keep in mind that these comments are coming from someone who relies on and basically likes Windows and other products that Microsoft makes.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
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